

# CLAIM

A SONG OF IRE AND VICE

#2 OF 4



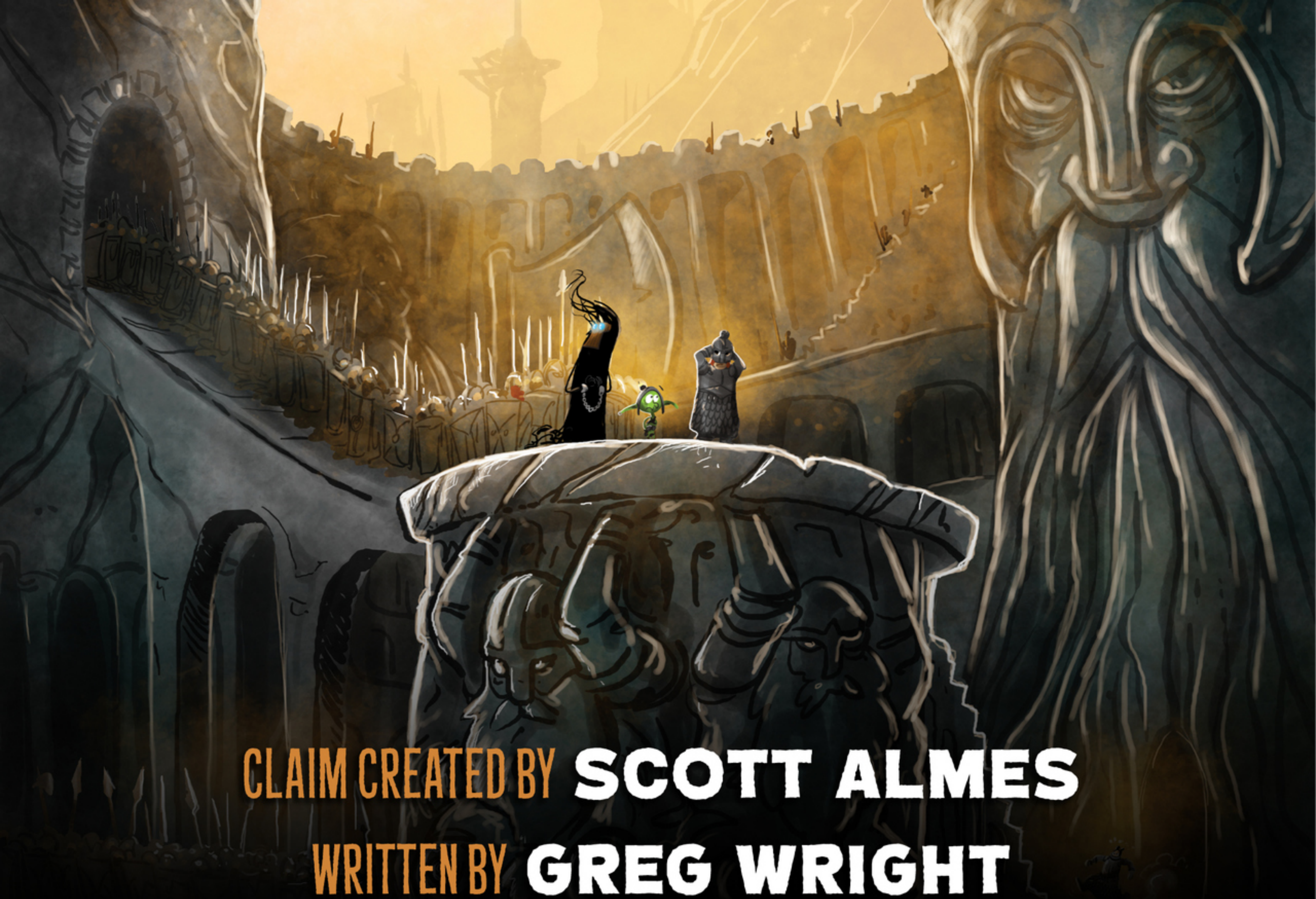
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ALMES WRIGHT DIMITRIEVSKI BIRCH



DEEP WATER  
GAMES





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Printed in Canada.





WE  
ARE AT  
WAR.

AND THOUGH  
WE STRUGGLE TO  
**CLAIM THE THRONE** FOR  
OUR HARD-WORKING  
**DWARF** POPULATION...  
THERE IS A DISTINCT  
**LACK OF PIE** IN  
THIS ROOM.

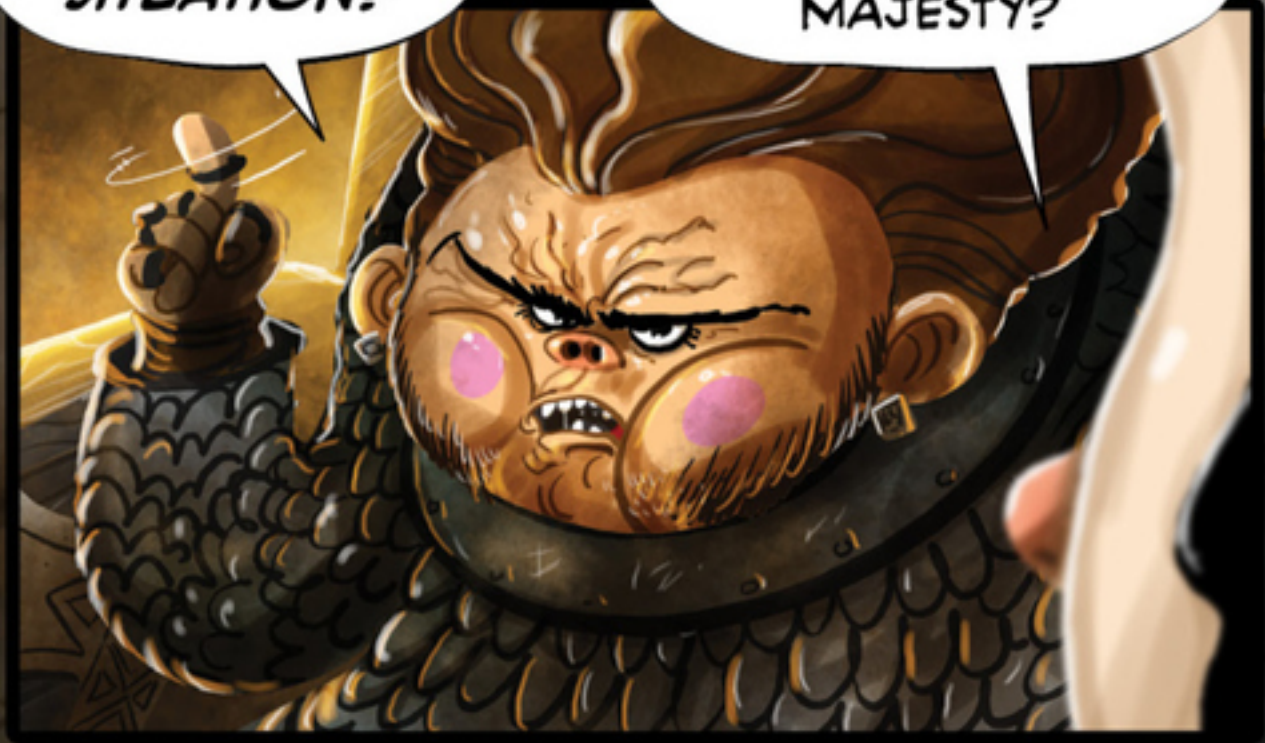
I SHALL  
INVESTIGATE  
THE **PIE SUPPLY**,  
YOUR  
MAJESTY.

**QUEEN BUTTERNUT:**  
DWARF QUEEN.  
PROUD. TOUGH. NOT  
REALLY HUNGRY BUT  
CRAVING PIE.

**HOLLY BRANCH:**  
LEAD MERCENARY  
WARRIOR AND  
KNOWER OF THINGS.

AND DO  
YOU HAVE A  
PLAN FOR THIS...  
**SITUATION?**

THE... "**PIE**  
**SITUATION**," YOUR  
MAJESTY?



I MEANT  
THE "**CLAIM-  
THE-THRONE**  
**SITUATION**,"  
HOLLY.



YOUR  
ARMIES CAN **CRUSH**  
YOUR **ENEMIES**.  
PRINCESS PUMPKIN  
IS CONVINCING THEM  
THEIR **MIGHT** MAKES  
**RIGHT**.



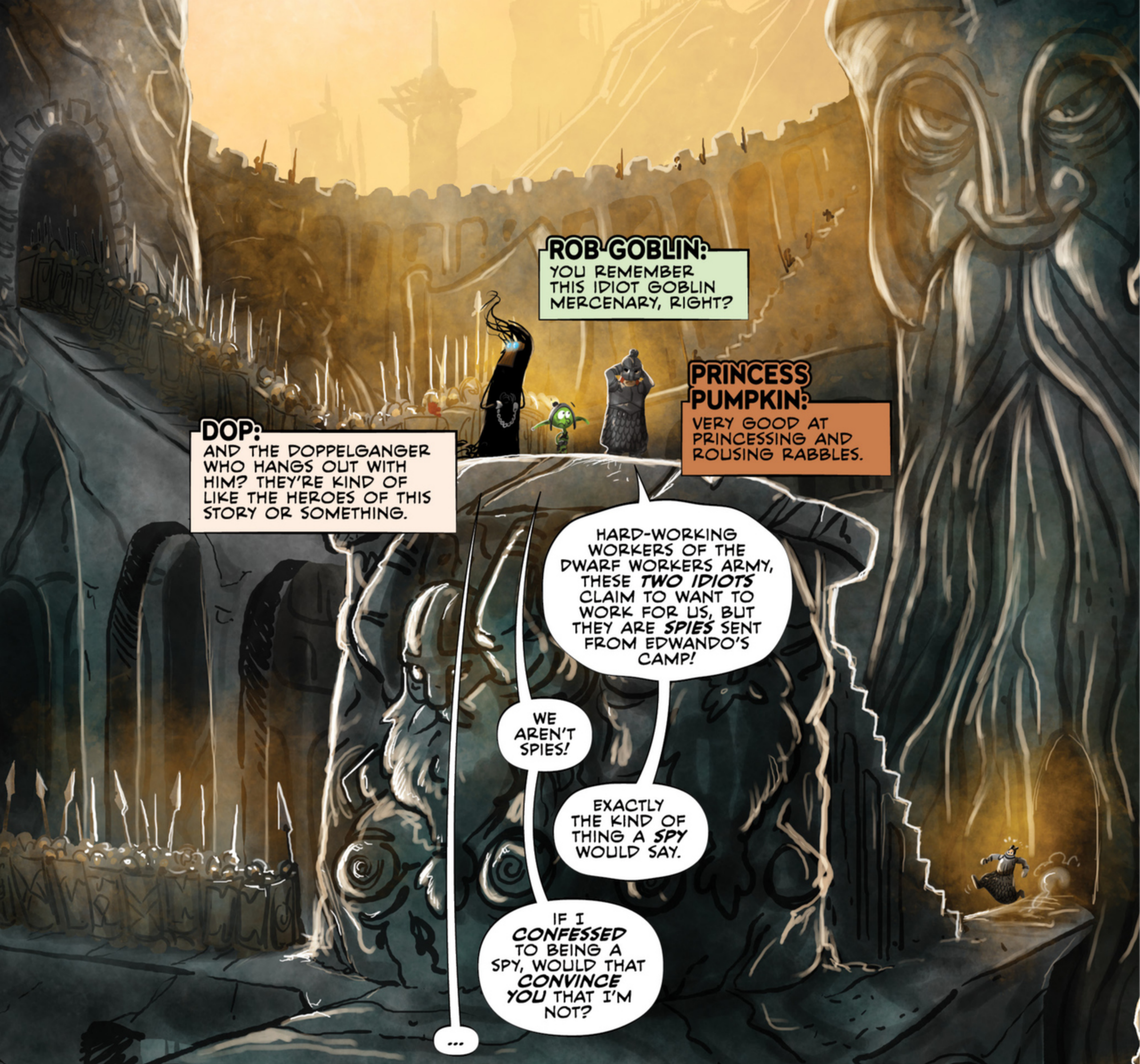
LET US GO! WE'RE  
**ENCAPTURATED**  
AGAINST OUR  
WILL!

IN THE  
COURTYARD...I  
**RECOGNIZE** THAT  
**VOICE!** I'LL  
**INVESTIGATE**.

AND...  
THE **PIE?**

THAT  
TOO, YOUR  
MAJESTY.





**ROB GOBLIN:**  
YOU REMEMBER  
THIS IDIOT GOBLIN  
MERCENARY, RIGHT?

**PRINCESS  
PUMPKIN:**  
VERY GOOD AT  
PRINCESSING AND  
ROUSING RABBLES.

**DOP:**  
AND THE DOPPELGANGER  
WHO HANGS OUT WITH  
HIM? THEY'RE KIND OF  
LIKE THE HEROES OF THIS  
STORY OR SOMETHING.

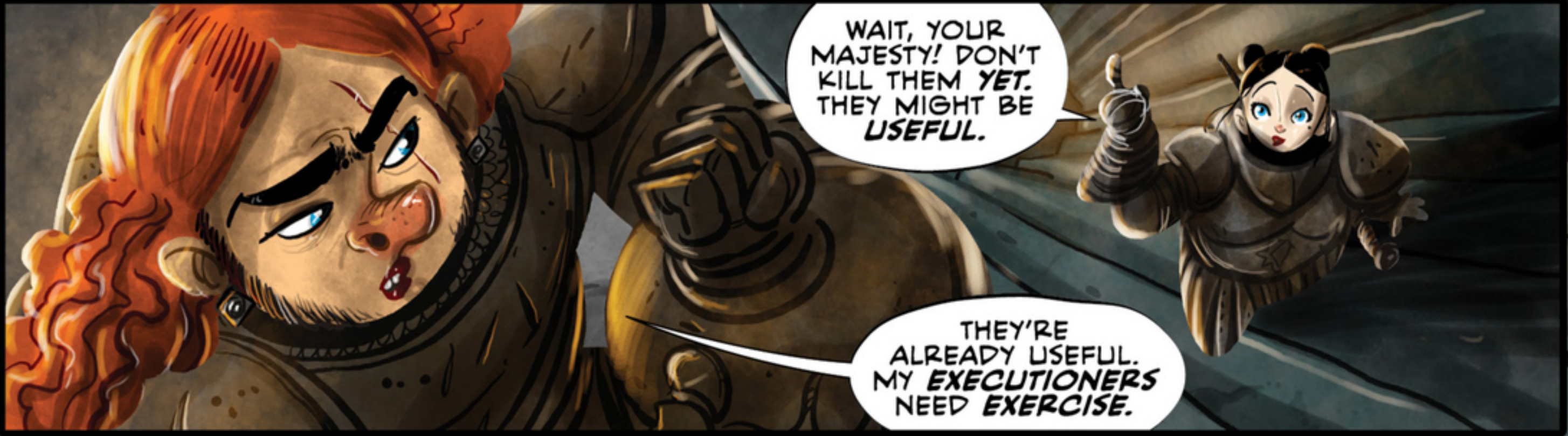
HARD-WORKING  
WORKERS OF THE  
DWARF WORKERS ARMY,  
THESE *TWO IDIOTS*  
CLAIM TO WANT TO  
WORK FOR US, BUT  
THEY ARE *SPIES* SENT  
FROM EDWANDO'S  
CAMP!

WE  
AREN'T  
SPIES!

EXACTLY  
THE KIND OF  
THING A *SPY*  
WOULD SAY.

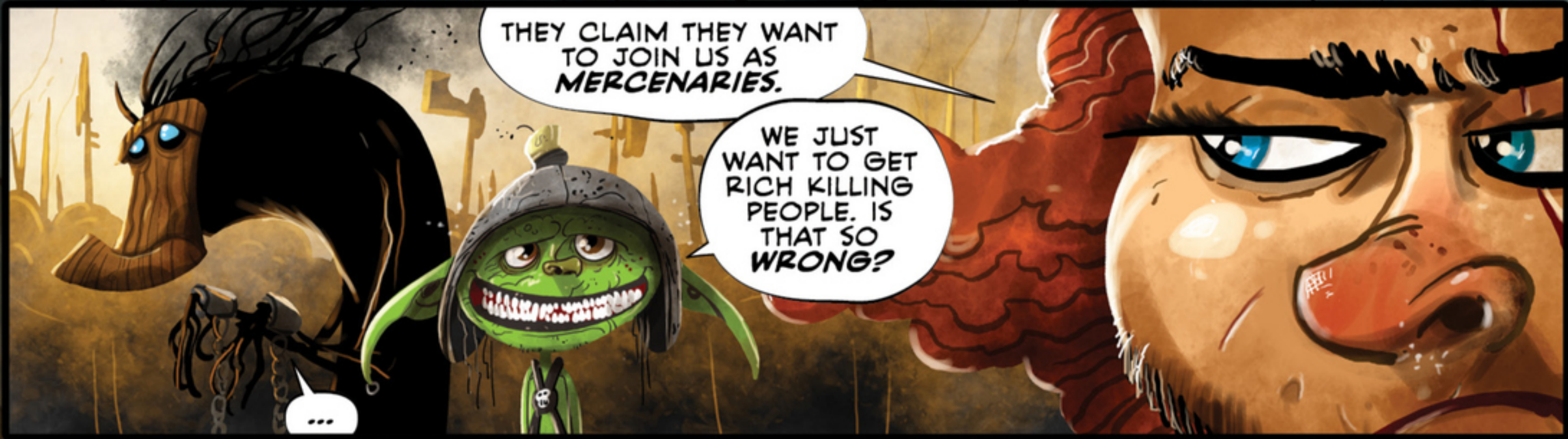
IF I  
*CONFESSED*  
TO BEING A  
SPY, WOULD THAT  
*CONVINCE*  
YOU THAT I'M  
NOT?

...



WAIT, YOUR  
MAJESTY! DON'T  
KILL THEM *YET*.  
THEY MIGHT BE  
*USEFUL*.

THEY'RE  
ALREADY *USEFUL*.  
MY *EXECUTIONERS*  
NEED *EXERCISE*.

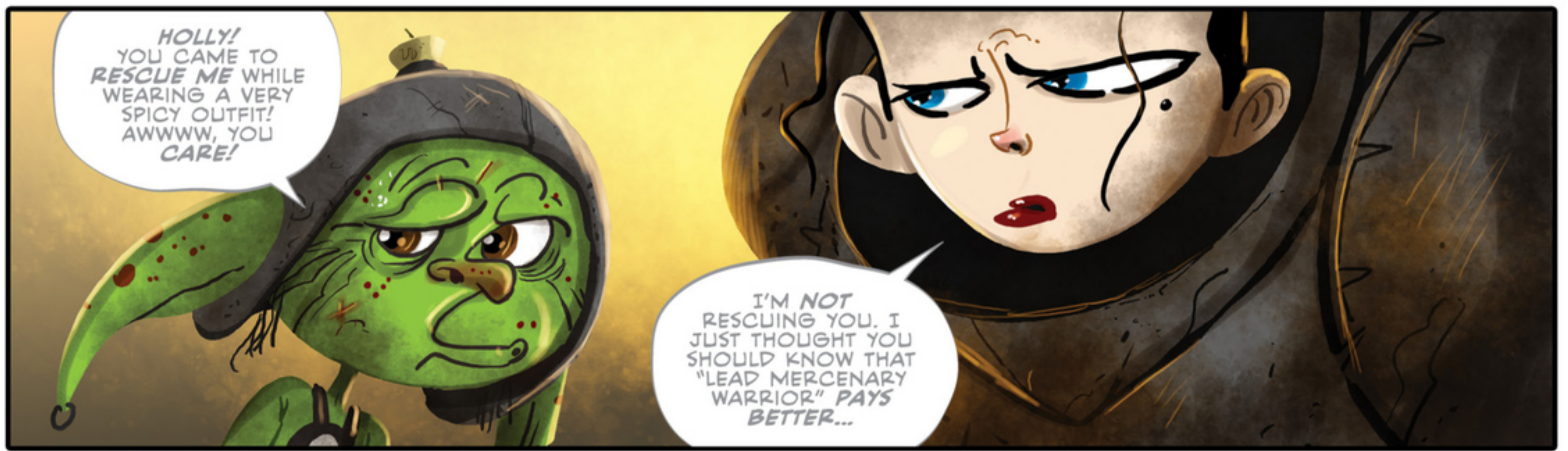


THEY CLAIM THEY WANT  
TO JOIN US AS  
*MERCENARIES*.

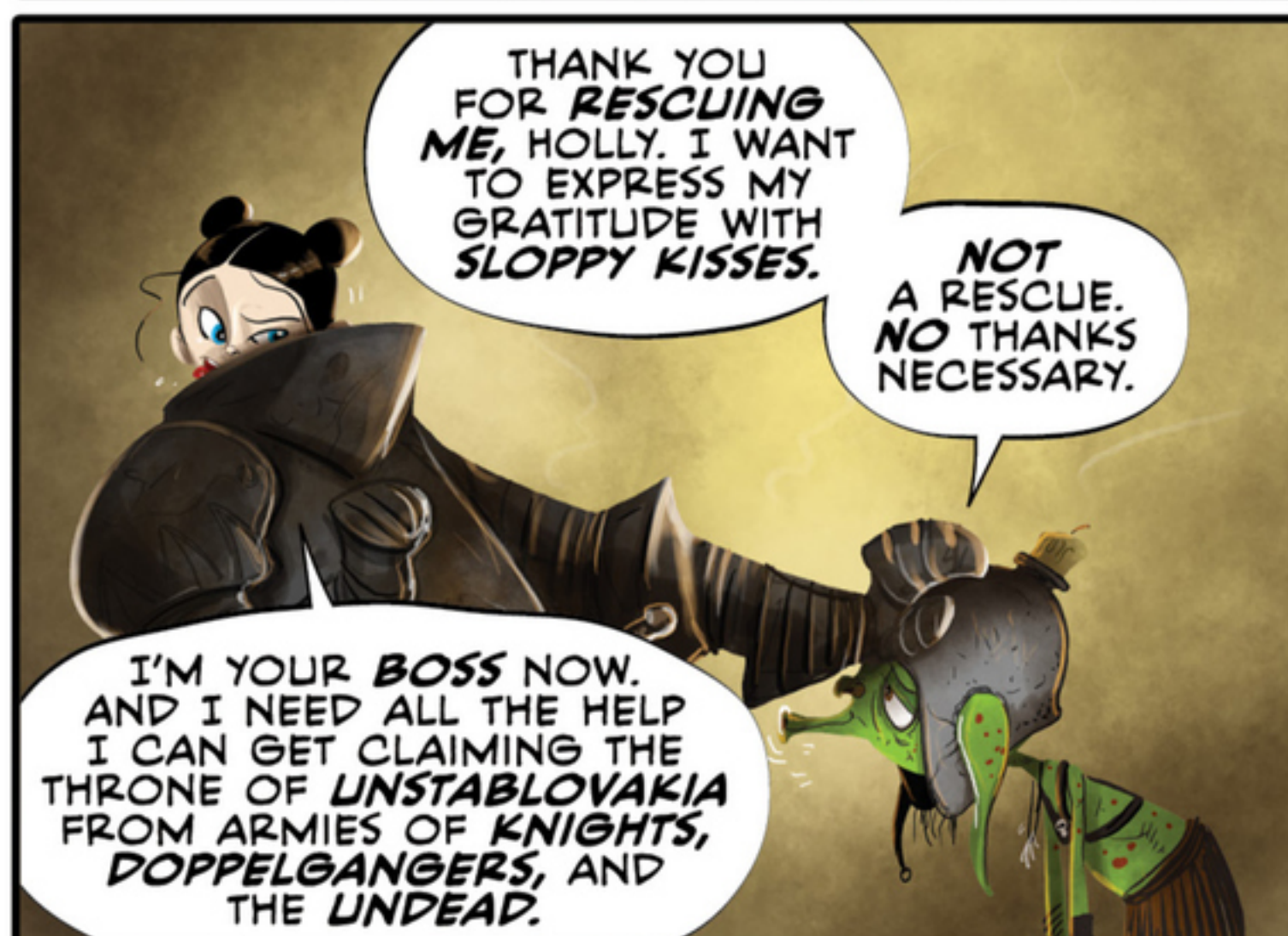
WE JUST  
WANT TO GET  
RICH KILLING  
PEOPLE. IS  
THAT SO  
*WRONG?*

...













ASSASSINS  
EVERYWHERE ARE  
TRYING TO **DESTROY**  
QUEEN BUTTERNUT.  
YOU TWO IDIOTS  
CAN **GUARD** HER  
**FOOD.**

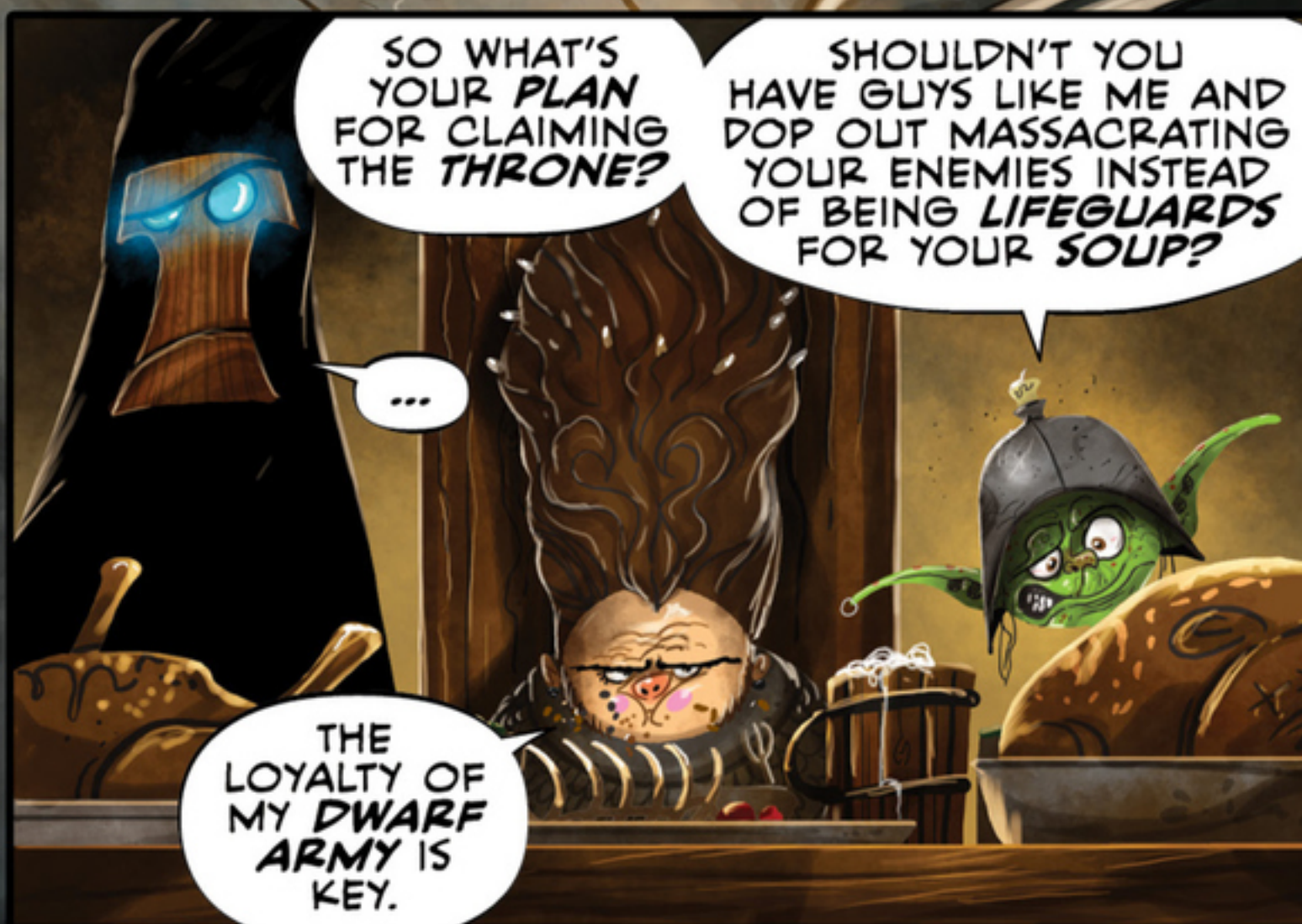
DOES  
**EATING** COUNT  
AS **ELIMINATING**  
**THREATS?**

...



**CAREFUL**  
WITH THAT  
FORK, YOUR  
MAJESTY.

IF YOU **STAB**  
**YOURSELF**, I  
THINK DOP AND  
I GET **DOCKED**  
**PAY...**



SO WHAT'S  
YOUR **PLAN**  
FOR CLAIMING  
THE **THRONE?**

SHOULDN'T YOU  
HAVE GUYS LIKE ME AND  
DOP OUT MASSACRATING  
YOUR ENEMIES INSTEAD  
OF BEING **LIFEGUARDS**  
FOR YOUR **SOUP?**

...

THE  
LOYALTY OF  
MY **DWARF**  
**ARMY** IS  
KEY.



MY DAUGHTER PRINCESS  
PUMPKIN IS A MOTIVATIONAL  
SPEAKER, AND SHE'S GIVING  
A **SPEECH** ABOUT LOYALTY  
RIGHT NOW.

YEAH, SHE'S VERY  
MOTIVATIONAL. SHE  
ALMOST LITERALLY  
**MOTIVATED MY**  
**HEAD OFF!**



**DEATH TO ALL OUR**  
**EXPLOITERS!**

WHAT EXACTLY  
IS THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN A **MOTIVATED**  
**CROWD** AND AN  
**ANGRY MOB?**

...









SHE'S RIGHT!  
SEIZE YOUR MEANS  
OF PRODUCTION  
AND LET'S START  
KILLING!



WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING  
FOR? PEACE, LAND,  
AND **UNLIMITED**  
**BREADSTICKS!**



I'VE GOT A  
REVOLUTIONARY  
IDEA!

**KLANG**



LET'S TOPPLE  
THE **LEADERS**  
WHO **EXPLOIT**  
US!

WHAT? I DIDN'T  
MEAN **ME**, YOU  
**STUPID, FILTHY,**  
**STINKING**  
**WORKERS!**



**YAAAH!**

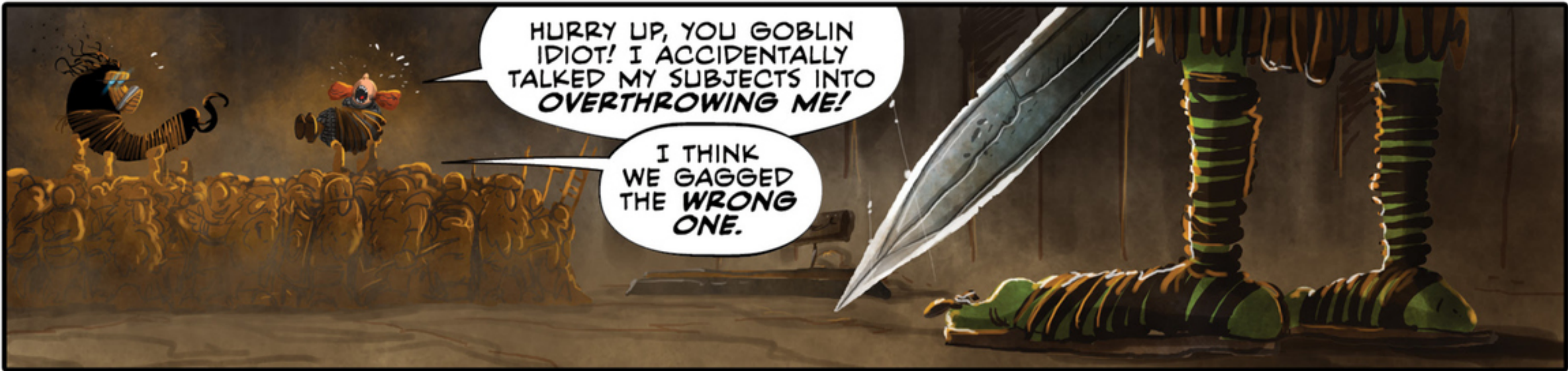




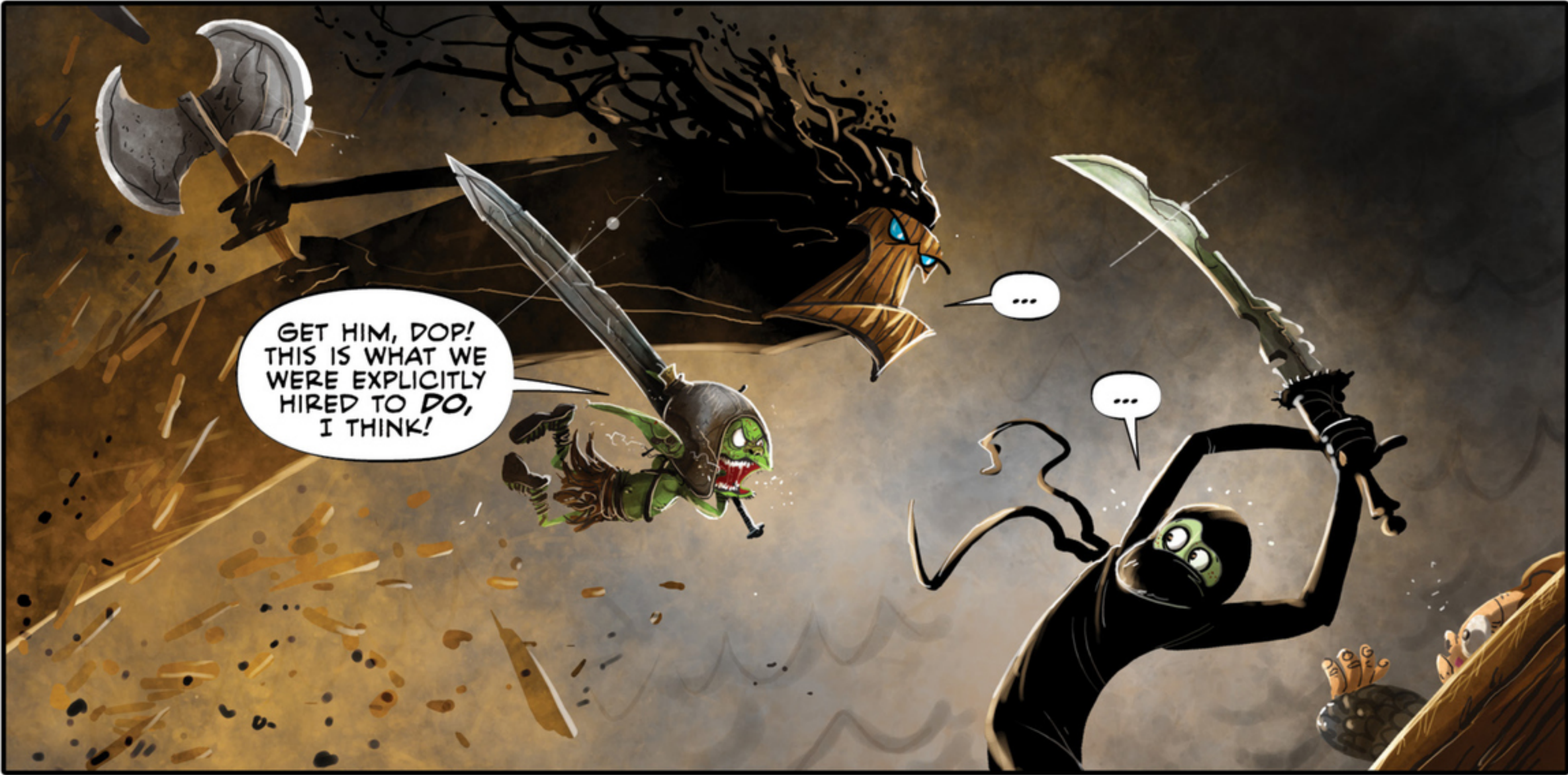
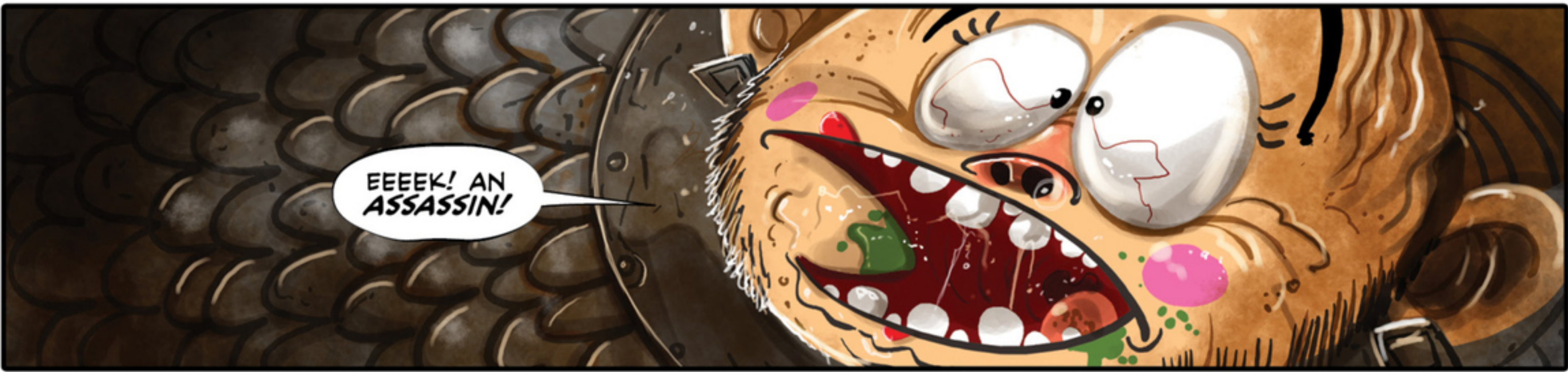




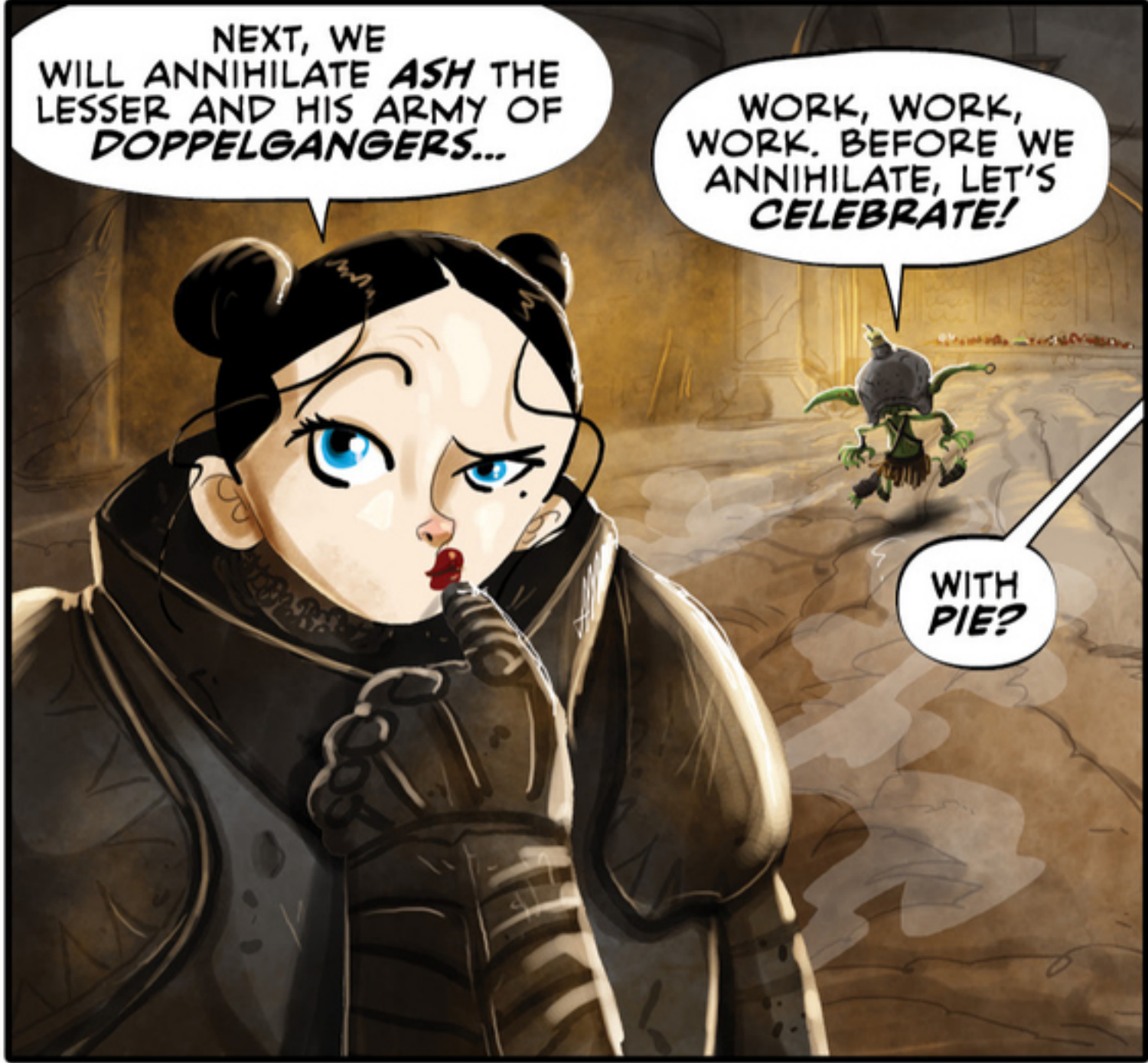
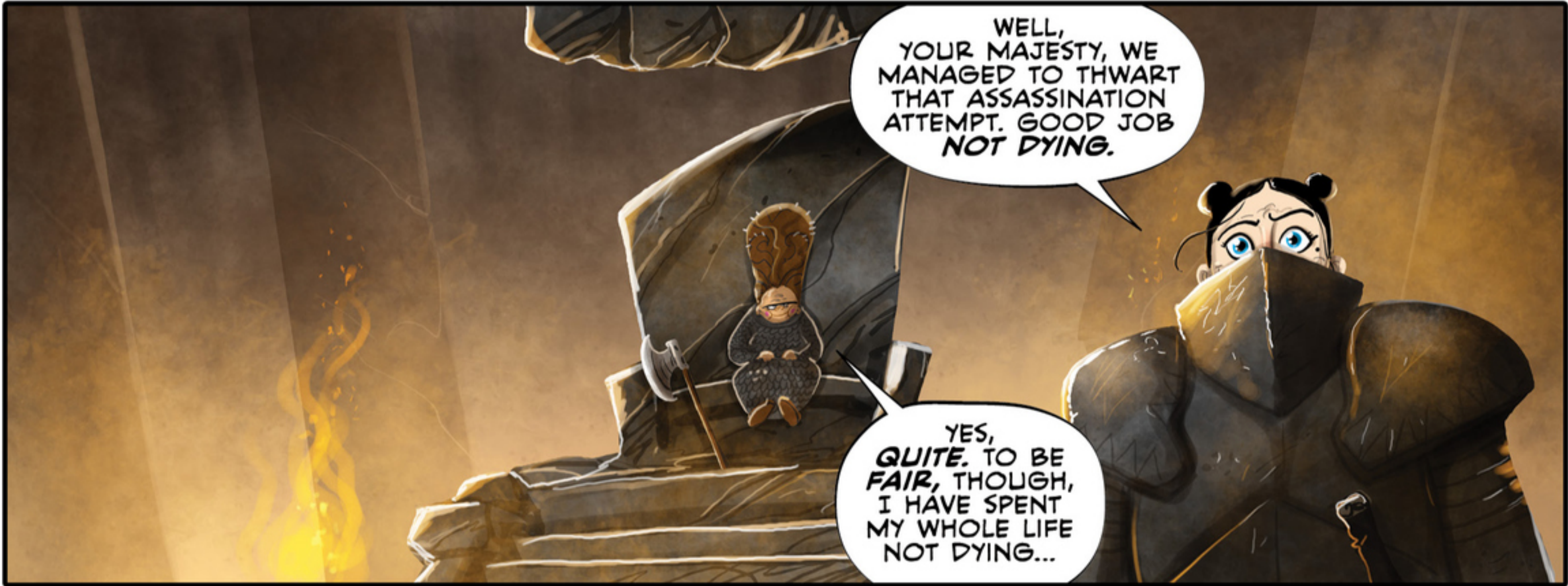




















HOLY CRAB CRAP IN A CAP!  
DOP, IS THAT YOU?

DOP, DO YOU KNOW THIS MASSIVE, DEADLY DRAGON?

...

IT'S *ME!* YOUR SECOND COUSIN, *DOUBLE P!*

ISN'T THIS WHOLE CLAIMING THE THRONE THING *WILD?* ME AND A BUNCH OF DOPPELGANGERS ALL WORK FOR *ASH THE LESSER*. YOU SHOULD JOIN UP!



WOW, DOP. I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT ANYONE IN YOUR FAMILY WAS... TALKATIVE.

...



BUT WE'RE JUST TWO MISERABLE *FAILURES...*

*PERFECT!* YOU'LL FIT RIGHT IN WITH *ASH THE LESSER*.

...





LAST NIGHT  
I HAD **BEAUTIFUL  
NIGHTMARES** FILLED WITH  
PLAGUES OF LOCUSTS  
AND PLAGUES OF BLOOD  
AND PLAGUES OF  
JUST REGULAR  
PLAGUES.

**ASH THE LESSER:**  
DOESN'T BELIEVE  
IN ANYTHING BUT  
DESTRUCTION. KIND  
OF A BUMMER.



THEY INSPIRED  
ME TO WRITE A  
**POEM**. BUT IT WAS  
SO PURE THAT  
HEARING IT WOULD  
BE **LETHAL**. HERE'S  
A LESSER POEM  
INSTEAD.



**BLACKNESS!**  
  
BLACKNESS  
EVERYWHERE. IN  
MY B-HOLE. IN  
THE AIR.  
  
NOTHINGNESS  
IS MY  
EVERYTHINGNESS.  
  
EVER SEE A  
RAINBOW OF  
JUST BLACKNESS?  
THAT'S MY SOUL.  
IN A COFFIN.

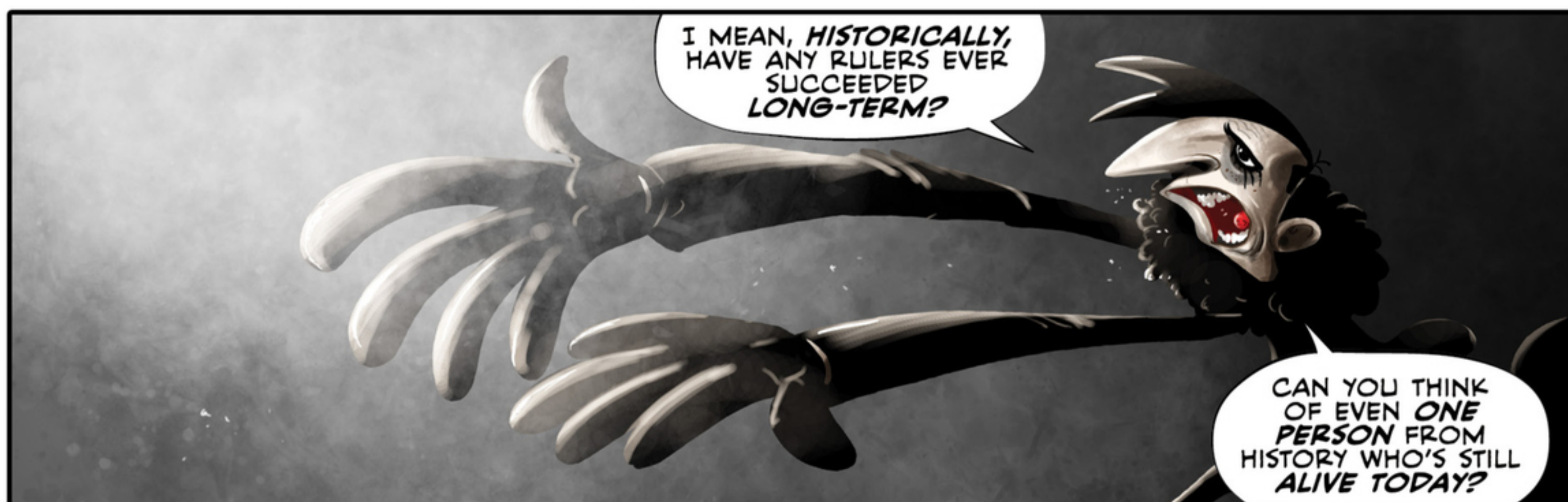
BUT  
ALSO UP IN THE  
AIR. YOU CAN'T  
SEE IT BECAUSE  
OF ALL THE...  
**BLACKNESS!**



**BLACKNESS!**  
  
SIR, THAT'S...  
**DEEP**. AND I'M NOT  
JUST SAYING THAT  
BECAUSE YOU PAY  
MY **SALARY**.



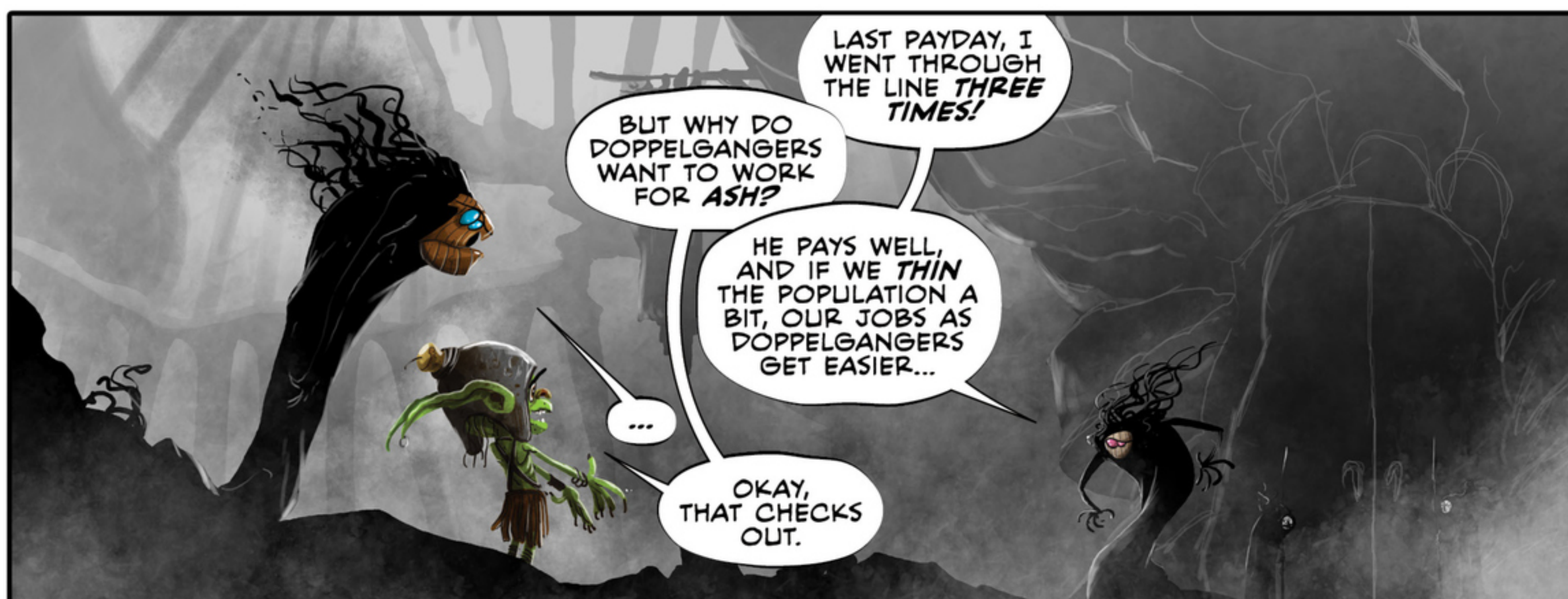
WILL I  
EVER **CLAIM**  
THE THRONE?  
IT **DOESN'T**  
**MATTER**.  
  
**DISAPPOINTMENT**  
IS MY **ONLY FRIEND**.  
AND HE'S NOT EVEN  
A VERY **GOOD**  
**FRIEND** EITHER...



I MEAN, **HISTORICALLY**,  
HAVE ANY RULERS EVER  
SUCCEEDED  
**LONG-TERM?**

CAN YOU THINK  
OF EVEN **ONE**  
**PERSON** FROM  
HISTORY WHO'S STILL  
**ALIVE TODAY?**

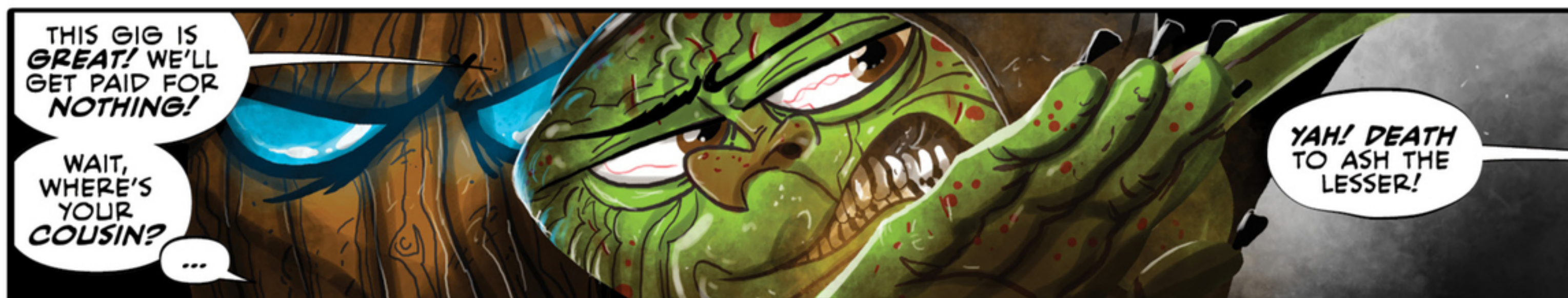
















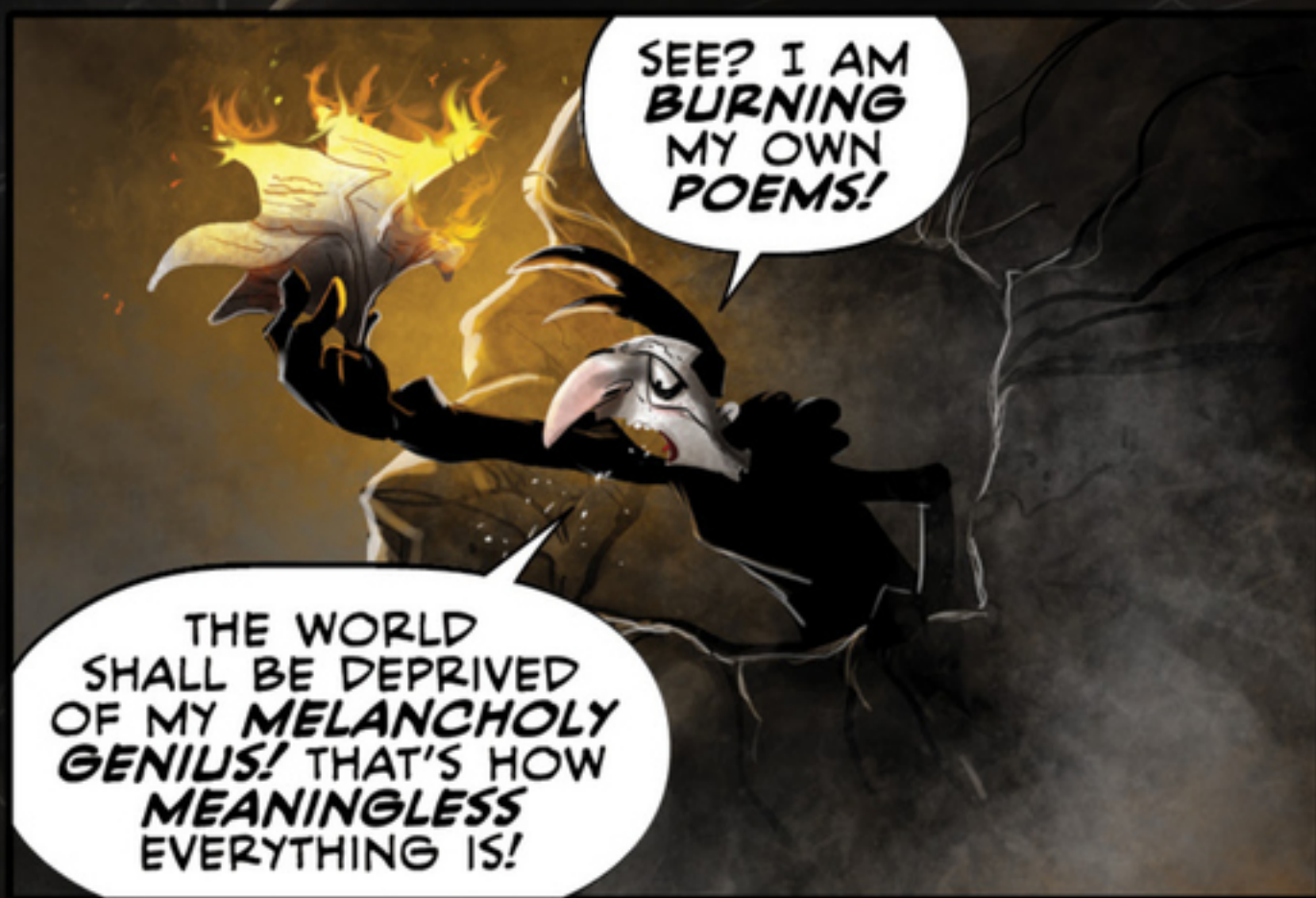




I'LL *PROVE*  
TO YOU ALL THAT  
*NOTHING* MEANS  
ANYTHING!

HE'S PRETTY  
*FAST* FOR  
A SCRAWNY  
GUY, ISN'T  
HE?

...



SEE? I AM  
*BURNING*  
MY OWN  
*POEMS!*

THE WORLD  
SHALL BE DEPRIVED  
OF MY *MELANCHOLY*  
*GENIUS!* THAT'S HOW  
*MEANINGLESS*  
EVERYTHING IS!



THAT WAS HIS  
BIG GESTURE?  
BURNING  
HIS *STUPID*  
*POETRY?*

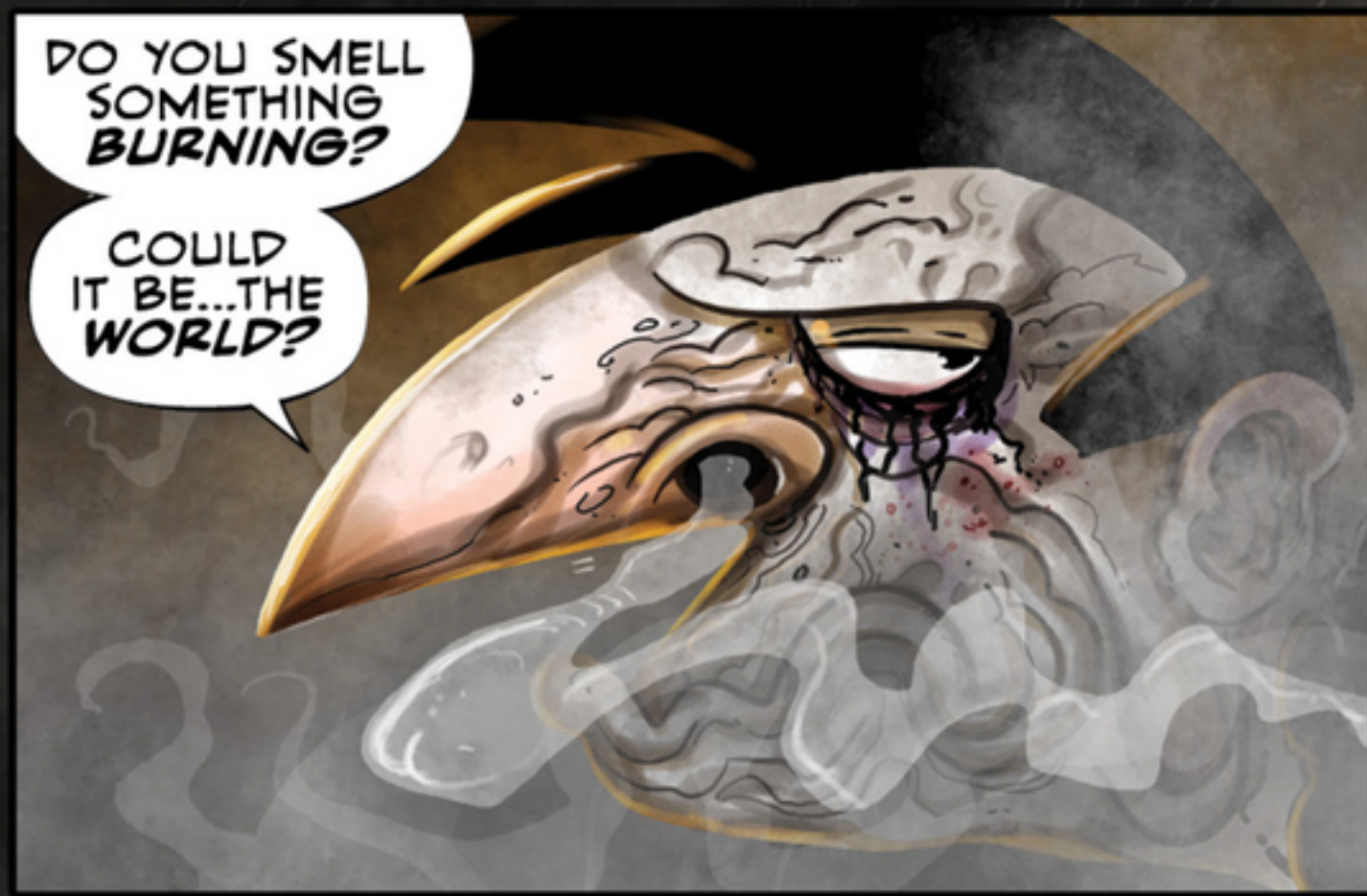
I GUESS IT  
WORKED. I FEEL...  
*NOTHING.*

...



WE  
SHALL SET  
THE ENTIRE  
WORLD ON  
*FIRE!*

JUST *PAY*  
*US* FIRST  
PLEASE!



DO YOU SMELL  
SOMETHING  
*BURNING?*

COULD  
IT BE...THE  
*WORLD?*







